

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm
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This is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This weekend, governors from across the nation are coming to Traverse City for the annual meeting of the National Governors Association. I'll be there, meeting with these leaders from states across the country.

The theme of this year's meeting is *Innovation America*, and as vice-chair of the Economic Development and Commerce Committee, I'll be co-hosting a session on how states can use innovation to drive economic growth and create jobs.

We'll be discussing how state leaders can create conditions for success in the global economy, with a particular focus on competitiveness – making sure our companies and our workers can compete with the best in the world.

We've already seen that globalization – and our response to it – can have an enormous impact on Michigan families. For some, like the displaced workers whose jobs have been sent to China or Mexico, the global economy can be devastating. And for others, like those who are trained in new skills and get high-tech, high-paying jobs that didn't exist a decade ago, globalization can mean amazing opportunities.

We've already set in motion an aggressive economic plan to help those families who are hurt by globalization get back on their feet. And, our plan is to bring more good-paying jobs and create more knowledge-economy success stories... The key to everything we are doing is innovation.

We've innovated with our 21st Century Jobs Fund, we're bringing new, cutting edge industries, like alternative energy and life sciences to Michigan. We're innovating in education with the Michigan Promise scholarship, which offers all students the opportunity to get \$4,000 for college, and with rigorous high school standards, high school graduation requirements. We're innovating in job training with the Mi Opportunity Partnership to train workers for job openings that currently exist, and our No Worker Left Behind program will take that training to the next level.

The focus of the National Governors Association on innovation means that our meeting in Traverse City this weekend can help Michigan learn from what's going on in other states as well.

Beyond innovation and economic development, we'll also be addressing other important issues that impact Michigan families. From global climate change to protecting kids from online predators to expanding access to health care, the agenda is packed. And I know that once the last governor has left Traverse City at the end of our meeting, my administration will be ready to move forward on further strong strategies to educate our kids, protect our families and secure Michigan's future.

Thank you for listening.